

REMARKS

The last Office Action has been carefully considered.

I. As to the Claim Objections

In compliance with the Examiner's objections, applicants have rectified the typographical error "□" to -- °C -- in claim 1; and inserted -- the group consisting of -- after "from" in claim 7, by way of the above amendment. It is therefore respectfully requested that these objections be withdrawn.

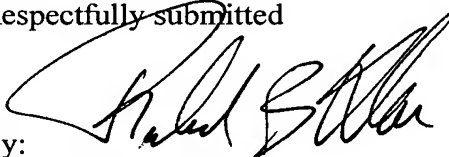
II. As to the 112(b) and 102 Rejections

Further, with regard to the Examiner's 35 USC 112(b) and 35 USC 102 rejections, applicants have deleted claim 9 without prejudice or disclaimer for the subject matter therein. Accordingly, it is believed that these rejections are now overcome.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and discussions, it is respectfully submitted that the present invention as defined in pending claims 1-8 is in full compliance with all the statutory requirements and, therefore, it is earnestly requested that the Examiner's objections and rejections be withdrawn and that the pending claims be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted



By: _____

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

Date of Deposit: December 22, 2003

I hereby certify that this AMENDMENT is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop: Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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